

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM  
RELEASE AS SANITIZED

C/R 56

2003

CONTACT REPORT

DATE:

12 April 1954

PLACE:

PERSONS PRESENT:

and Francis T. MYLKES

SUBJECT:

Visit of MYLKES at home of 7 - 10 April 1954

1. The purposes of MYLKES's trip was to: 1) ascertain the condition of health; 2) learn the results of his recent trip to Mexico; 3) to advise him of the current situation at LINCOLN.

2. It was quickly ascertainable that health had deteriorated from the time when he had left LINCOLN. Through observation and conversation with and his family, it was easy to see that he needed an immediate expert medical examination. Believing a true statement of physical state was necessary, MYLKES advised that it was the Group's wish that he be given a complete medical-checkup to determine the actual cause of his illness. acceded to this wish; therefore, shortly afterward, MYLKES went and made an appointment for with the in that city. This Clinic is accorded high respect in medical circles in that city and is therefore believed to afford the best facilities for a complete physical check-up. For, in addition to its high professional standards, the Clinic is known to have several Spanish speaking doctors and nurses. MYLKES was unable to obtain a reservation at the Clinic before 14 April. agreed to submit a full report on the medical circumstances after being discharged from the Clinic; the complete examination is expected to take approximately four to five days.

3. MYLKES advised of recent events at LINCOLN: of the imminent necessity to move ahead in all activity - military, propaganda, and intelligence. MYLKES advised there are now four individuals at the propaganda safe-house, that programs are being cut for the radio, and newspaper articles are being sent to the Junta's clandestine newspapers. It was decided that should return to LINCOLN immediately after his discharge from the hospital, provided that he found it impossible to return for two or three days prior to his entrance into the Clinic. In the event

that [ ] health will not permit him to return to LINCOLN it was decided that MYLKES should again travel to [ ] and a basic decision regarding [ ] position would be made at that time.

4. [ ] Comments on his trip to Mexico:

- a. General: [ ] was left with an extremely negative impression of the Congress to be held in Mexico in May. He believes that the money and time and energy which is to be expended in this Congress could be better spent on the liberation of Guatemala and Costa Rica. With regard to activities other than those connected with the Congress, [ ] was slightly more enthusiastic. He believes that he has left the Junta more firmly entrenched there and he believes that his conversations with AXCINENA have had and will have a very stimulating effect within Guatemala.
- b. [ ] and the Comité Pro-Liberación de Guatemala:  
[ ] stated that he had very little regard for [ ] who is presently in charge of a small splinter group of Guatemalan, anti-communist refugees now residing in Mexico. He advised that only three people comprise this group and that it held no meetings and was not capable of distributing large amounts of propaganda, particularly into Guatemala, and that it had absolutely no influence among any other anti-communist group of Guatemalans in Mexico. [ ] declared further that from all indications this group has absolutely no influence among Mexican anti-communist elements. As a result of these factors [ ] said that he felt the Comité has little or no purpose for its existence while he felt that the new group (the CEGAM) which he has organized under [ ] should now be given the full support of the Junta: he hopes that his recommendation will be accepted by the Group. He said that such a change was necessary inasmuch as there is a serious ideological split between CALLIGERIS and [ ] As an example, [ ] cited the fact that on several occasions [ ] has printed articles which were extremely disparaging to General ARANA. According to [ ] ARANA was the principal man of support and influence who backed CALLIGERIS before his assassination by ARBENZ forces. [ ] said that it was probably for this reason more than any other that CALLIGERIS, acting on his own, had sent [ ] into Mexico to organize a more serious and properly oriented group of Guatemalans.

MYLKES' comments: It appears necessary for the Group to make a decision as soon as possible as to whether it will

support the CEGAM group under the direction of [ ] which has the support of CALLIGERIS and [ ] or to continue to support [ ] group. It is also believed necessary for [ ] to reconsider the Comite as a truly effective anti-communist Guatemalan force. The evidence which [ ] has submitted shows apparently that the Comite has little or no reason for its continued existence.

c. [ ] and the Congreso: [ ] was left with the impression that [ ] and his assistant, [ ] are two industrious, ~~low-talking~~, verbose men who for the sake of personal and/or financial gain were interested in sponsoring the Congreso. He does not believe that these two men can be considered as sincere ideological anti-communists. However, [ ] does feel that because of the personal and financial gain which have accrued as a result of their activities, there can be no doubt that these two men can be quite useful in sponsoring such a Congreso. He did indicate that in all dealings with these two men, considerable care should be given to the management of funds and a very careful accounting demanded since it is his impression that neither of these men would be very careful in handling large amounts of money.

When [ ] arrived in Mexico and talked with [ ] and [ ] he found that neither of the two men, although they had made plans and were beginning to issue invitations to the Congress, had an agenda or a program for the Congress. Lacking these primary ingredients for a Congress, [ ] properly declared that he was not willing to assist this group financially until he knew more of the details.

Despite this clear statement, [ ] received a cable in his home two days after his return which asked that funds be sent immediately to cover the expenses of the Guatemalan delegates who would be traveling soon in various Latin American countries. Regarding the exact names of the Guatemalan delegates to represent the Junta at this Congreso, [ ] said that at this time he has not specifically designated anyone. However, he did say that if the Congreso was held and if suitable financial arrangements could be made he would suggest the names of one or two individuals who would be assets at such a Congreso.

C/R 56

MYLKES' comments: It was not known at this time that [ ] had simultaneously cabled CALLIGERIS asking for names of candidates to make the trip to Latin America and probably asking for money.

d. Visit with [ ] [ ] was extremely pleased with these interviews. [ ] acting upon instructions from [ ] came to visit him in Mexico.

[ ] advised MYLKES that he had requested [ ] at his earliest opportunity to return to Guatemala and make contact with the Archbishop of the Catholic Church. The purpose of this contact would be to galvanize the Church into action against the ARBENZ Government now that it was known that the Junta was strongly supported and backed by people who would see the cause through to the finish.

MYLKES' comments: Apparently [ ] was extremely successful in this manoeuvre because within a four or five day period after [ ] arrival in Guatemala, contact was undoubtedly made by [ ] and as a result the Archbishop published a strong anti-communist declaration against the Communists.

[ ] also agreed to the possibility that upon his return to Guatemala [ ] would make several contacts with people who would take part in, or be given instructions as to the anti-communist campaign and the anti-government campaign. [ ] was instructed to contact [ ] and other anti-communist individuals for the purpose of securing their cooperation in utilizing speeches which would be prepared by the Junta. Ostensibly the speeches would be the Senators' own opinions but in actuality would be closely coordinated with the Group. These individuals will be unwitting of the source of their material except for the fact that it is of a definite anti-communist nature and that it has some connection with the movement led by CALLIGERIS and [ ] boasted of his enthusiasm and confidence that the Senators would be more than willing to cooperate in this venture.

[ ] was also told to contact [ ] an individual who is known to be extremely anti-communist and who, according to [ ] would be very helpful in setting up an

O/R 56

intelligence net in Guatemala. [ ] was of course not told the purpose for which [ ] was being considered but merely that he was to sound him out as the extent that he, [ ] would be willing to assist in the anti-communist movement. [ ] again announced his confidence in being able to secure [ ] cooperation in such an endeavor.

[ ] was also told to contact several other individuals known to be anti-communist and who have no previous record of arrests: they are to be asked to aid in the drawing up of a political program for a new anti-communist government. These individuals are [ ] and [ ] all of whom have had a great deal of experience in the industrial, banking and commercial circles of Guatemala. They would be extremely influential in sponsoring any economic-political program developed by the Group.

[ ] advised MYLKES that from time to time [ ] would check with the person who gave him [ ] letter (asking him to come to Mexico).

MYLKES' comments: It will be possible for Station Guatemala to enlarge upon and exercise more direct control over [ ] in the future as a result of his favorable response to [ ] demands. It is believed that a special case officer should be assigned to [ ] other than the PP Case Officer in Guatemala, if this has not already been done. The importance of [ ] as a finger man cannot be underestimated in developing new talent for both FI and PP nets.

- e. The remaining incidents of [ ] trip to Mexico are fully reported by him in separate reports and are considered extremely interesting (See attachments to HULA-489). Note particularly his conversation with [ ] a Costa Rican exile now in Mexico, and [ ] comments regarding the political situation in Mexico. (MyLKES' comment: these comments are extremely important for us since they reflect the outsider's viewpoint, of one who has lived for a considerable time in Mexico and who is familiar with Mexican politics.)

Recommendations:

It is believed important to ascertain from [ ] its evaluation of [ ] whom [ ] has

~~SECRET~~  
PBSUCCESS/RYBAT

C/R 56

recommended in so laudatory manner. [ ] is to  
head both the organization, [ ] and its newspaper,  
[ ]

Francis T. MYLKES

FTM/sgw  
18 APRIL 1954  
Distribution:

3 - WASH  
3 - LINC

~~SECRET~~  
PBSUCCESS/RYBAT